

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-15. (canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising: ~~including steps of~~
- at a first node in a network, distributing digital content to a second node in said
~~that~~ network, said ~~that~~ digital content representing at least a portion of a media stream, at
least a portion of said ~~that~~ digital content being encrypted by a first encryption key[,]
- ~~those steps of~~ said distributing comprising: ~~to a second node including steps of~~
- (a) receiving a first decryption key, said ~~that~~ first decryption key being encrypted
by a second encryption key, said ~~that~~ second encryption key being pre-assigned to said
~~that~~ first node;
- (b) decrypting said ~~that~~ first decryption key using a second decryption key as-
sociated with said ~~that~~ second encryption key, said ~~that~~ second decryption key being pre-
assigned to said ~~that~~ first node;
- (c) decrypting said ~~that~~ digital content using said ~~that~~ first decryption key;
- (d) re-encrypting at least a portion of said ~~that~~ digital content using a re-
encryption key.

17. (Currently Amended) The [A] method as in claim 16, further comprising:
~~including steps of~~
by a user of said ~~that~~ digital content, receiving a decryption key associated with
said ~~that~~ re-encryption key.

18. (Currently Amended) The [A] method as in claim 16, further comprising:
~~including steps of~~
receiving at least one of (a) said ~~that~~ re-encryption key, (b) a decryption key
associated with said ~~that~~ re-encryption key, at a server having access to said ~~that~~ first
decryption key.

19. (Currently Amended) The [A] method as in claim 16, further comprising:
~~including steps of~~
receiving said ~~that~~ re-encryption key from a server having access to said ~~that~~ first
decryption key.

20. (Currently Amended) The [A] method as in claim 16, wherein
at least one pair of: that said ~~that~~ encryption key and said ~~that~~ first decryption key,
said ~~that~~ second encryption key and said ~~that~~ second decryption key, said ~~that~~ re-
encryption key and a decryption key associated with said ~~that~~ re-encryption key,
include associated keys in a public-key cryptosystem.

21. (Currently Amended) The [A] method as in claim 16, wherein

at least one pair of: said ~~that~~ first encryption key and said ~~that~~ first decryption key, said ~~that~~ second encryption key and said ~~that~~ second decryption key, said ~~that~~ re-encryption key and a decryption key associated with said ~~that~~ re-encryption key, include associated keys in a symmetric-key cryptosystem.

22. (Currently Amended) The [A] method as in claim 16, wherein

said ~~that~~ second node includes one or more of:

a recipient user,

a presentation device.

23. (Currently Amended) The [A] method as in claim 16, wherein said ~~that~~ re-encryption key is responsive to information from said ~~that~~ first node.

24. (Currently Amended) The [A] method as in claim 16, including steps of renewing or revoking a license associated with said ~~that~~ media stream.

25. (Currently Amended) The [A] method as in claim 16, wherein

at least one of: (a) said ~~that~~ first decryption key, (b) a decryption key associated with said ~~that~~ re-encryption key

is associated with a set of restrictions on a license to said ~~that~~ digital content.

26. (Currently Amended) The [A] method as in claim 25, wherein

those licensing restrictions include at least one of:

a first date or time at which presentation is allowed for said ~~that~~ media stream;

a last date or time at which presentation is allowed for said ~~that~~ media stream;

a limited number of presentations allowed for said ~~that~~ media stream;

a limited physical region at which presentation is allowed for said ~~that~~ media stream;

a charge, cost, fee, or subscription associated with allowing presentation of said ~~that~~ media stream;

a type of presentation device;

an output format for a presentation device;

a set of specific presentation devices;

a bit rate, sampling rate, or other measure of granularity or precision for a presentation device.

27. (Currently Amended) The [A] method as in claim 16, wherein

a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key is pre-assigned to at least one of:

said ~~that~~ second node,

a user of that digital content,

a presentation device associated with a user of said ~~that~~ digital content.

28. (Currently Amended) The [A] method as in claim 16, wherein ~~steps of~~ distributing digital content to

at least one of: (a) said ~~that~~ first node, (b) said ~~that~~ second node, (c) a user node

include reading at least a portion of said ~~that~~ digital content from physical media.

29. (Currently Amended) The [A] method as in claim 16, wherein

said ~~that~~ digital content includes at least one of:
metadata about said ~~that~~ media stream;
some information capable of inspection by a user other than for presentation of
said ~~that~~ media stream.

30. (Currently Amended) The [A] method as in claim 16, further comprising: including
steps of

delivering, to a user of said ~~that~~ digital content, said ~~that~~ digital content in a form
being locked against inspection or tampering by said ~~that~~ user;

separately delivering, to said ~~that~~ user, a license including a content key capable
of unlocking said ~~that~~ digital content, said ~~that~~ content key being locked against inspection or tampering by devices other than a selected presentation device owned by said ~~that~~ user;

wherein the selected presentation device is associated with a presentation device key, a
secure portion of the presentation device being capable of unlocking said ~~that~~ license
using said ~~that~~ presentation device key;

with the effect that presentation of that digital content is restricted to said ~~that~~
selected presentation device.

31. (Currently Amended) The [A] method as in claim 16, further comprising:

~~including steps of~~, at a license server

receiving an indication of distribution of said ~~that~~ digital content;
initiating delivery of said ~~that~~ first decryption key to said ~~that~~ first node;
separately initiating delivery of a license for said ~~that~~ digital content, said ~~that~~ license including a content key capable of unlocking said ~~that~~ digital content;
wherein said ~~that~~ license is delivered in time to at least one of (a) a user of said ~~that~~ digital content, (b) a device for presenting said ~~that~~ digital content, or (c) a node in said ~~that~~ network.

32. (Currently Amended) Apparatus comprising: ~~including~~

digital content representing at least a portion of a media stream, at least a portion of said ~~that~~ digital content being encrypted by a first encryption key;

a first decryption key, said ~~that~~ first decryption key being encrypted by a second encryption key, said ~~that~~ second encryption key being pre-assigned to said ~~that~~ apparatus;

a key decryption element associated with said ~~that~~ first decryption key, said ~~that~~ key decrypting element having access to a second decryption key associated with said ~~that~~ second encryption key, said ~~that~~ second decryption key being pre-assigned to said ~~that~~ apparatus;

a content decryption element for decrypting said ~~that~~ digital content with reference to said ~~that~~ first decryption key;

a content re-encryption element for re-encrypting at least a portion of said ~~that~~ digital content with reference to a re-encryption key.

33. (Currently Amended) The Apparatus of as in claim 32, further comprising: including
an output port coupled to a network;
a sending element coupled to said ~~that~~ output port and disposed to send
information concerning use of a decryption key associated with said ~~that~~ re-encryption
key.

34. (Currently Amended) The Apparatus of as in claim 32, further comprising: including
an output port coupled to a network;
a sending element coupled to (a) that output port, (b) a physical medium
maintaining a message directed to a server associated with that digital content or with
rights to said ~~that~~ digital content, and (c) information from which said ~~that~~ intended
server can grant access to a decryption key associated with said ~~that~~ re-encryption key.

35. (Currently Amended) The Apparatus of as in claim 32, further comprising: including
an input port coupled to a network;
a receiving element coupled to said ~~that~~ input port and being disposed to receive
said ~~that~~ re-encryption key from a device having access to said ~~that~~ first decryption key.

36. (Currently Amended) The Apparatus of as in claim 32, wherein
at least one pair of: said ~~that~~ first encryption key and said ~~that~~ first decryption key,
said ~~that~~ second encryption key and said ~~that~~ second decryption key, said ~~that~~ re-
encryption key and a decryption key associated with said ~~that~~ re-encryption key,
include associated keys in a public-key cryptosystem.

37. (Currently Amended) The Apparatus of ~~as in~~ claim 32, wherein

at least one pair of: said ~~that~~ first encryption key and said ~~that~~ first decryption key, said ~~that~~ second encryption key and said ~~that~~ second decryption key, said ~~that~~ re-encryption key and a decryption key associated with said ~~that~~ re-encryption key, include associated keys in a symmetric-key cryptosystem.

38. (Currently Amended) The Apparatus of ~~as in~~ claim 32, further comprising: ~~including~~

an output port coupled to a network;
a sending element coupled to (a) said ~~that~~ output port, (b) said ~~that~~ content re-encryption element, and (c) a physical medium maintaining a message directed to one or more of[:] a node in said ~~that~~ network capable of distributing said ~~that~~ digital content[:][;]
a recipient user[:][;] a presentation device.

39. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 32, wherein said ~~that~~ re-encryption key is responsive to information from said ~~that~~ apparatus.

40. (Currently Amended) The Apparatus of ~~as in~~ claim 32, wherein

at least one of: (a) said ~~that~~ first decryption key, (b) a decryption key associated with said ~~that~~ re-encryption key
is associated with a set of restrictions on a license to said ~~that~~ digital content.

41. (Currently Amended) The Apparatus of ~~as in~~ claim 40, wherein

said ~~these~~ licensing restrictions include at least one of:

- a first date or time at which presentation is allowed for said ~~that~~ media stream;
- a last date or time at which presentation is allowed for said ~~that~~ media stream;
- a limited number of presentations allowed for said ~~that~~ media stream;
- a limited physical region at which presentation is allowed for said ~~that~~ media stream;
- a charge, cost, fee, or subscription associated with allowing presentation of said ~~that~~ media stream;
- a type of presentation device;
- an output format for a presentation device;
- a set of specific presentation devices;
- a bit rate, sampling rate, or other measure of granularity or precision for a presentation device.

42. (Currently Amended) The Apparatus of ~~as in~~ claim 32, wherein

a decryption key associated with said ~~that~~ re-encryption key is pre-assigned to at least one of:

- said ~~that~~ second node,
- a user of said ~~that~~ digital content,
- a presentation device associated with a user of said ~~that~~ digital content.

43. (Canceled.)

44. (Currently Amended) The Apparatus of as in claim 32, wherein

said that digital content includes at least one of:

metadata about said that media stream;

some information capable of inspection by a user other than for presentation of said that media stream.

45. (Currently Amended) The Apparatus of as in claim 32, further comprising: including

an output port coupled to a network to which a user of that digital content is coupled;

a software element coupled to (a) said that output port, (b) said that content re-encryption element, and (c) a physical medium maintaining a message to said that user; wherein

said that user is capable of separately retrieving from a device coupled to said that network, a license including information granting access to a decryption key associated with said that re-encryption key;

said that license is associated with a selected presentation device owned by said that user;

the selected presentation device is associated with a presentation device key, a secure portion of the presentation device being capable of unlocking said that license using said that presentation device key;

with the effect that presentation of said that digital content is restricted to said that selected presentation device.

46. (Currently Amended) The Apparatus of as in claim 32, further comprising: including

an input port coupled to a network;

a receiving element coupled to said ~~that~~ input port, being disposed to receive an indication of distribution of that digital content, and being disposed to receive said ~~that~~ first decryption key;

an output port coupled to that network;

a sending element coupled to (a) said ~~that~~ output port, (b) a physical medium maintaining a first message, said ~~that~~ first message including information sufficient to access said ~~that~~ decryption key associated with said ~~that~~ re-encryption key, and (c) a physical medium maintaining a second message, said ~~that~~ second message including information sufficient to access a license for said ~~that~~ digital content, said ~~that~~ license including a content key capable of unlocking said ~~that~~ digital content;

wherein said ~~that~~ license is delivered in time to at least one of: a user of said ~~that~~ digital content[:][₇] a device for presenting said ~~that~~ digital content[:][₇] or a node in said ~~that~~ network.

47. (Currently Amended) Apparatus comprising: including

an input port coupled to a network;

a receiving element coupled to said ~~that~~ input port, being disposed to receive an indication of distribution of digital content representing at least a portion of a media stream, at least a portion of said ~~that~~ digital content being encrypted;

an output port coupled to said ~~that~~ network;

a sending element coupled to (a) said ~~that~~ output port, (b) a physical medium

maintaining a message including information sufficient to decrypt said ~~that~~ digital content, (c) a physical medium maintaining a message including information sufficient to re-encrypt said ~~that~~ digital content, and (d) a physical medium maintaining a separate message including information sufficient to access a license for said ~~that~~ digital content, said ~~that~~ license including a content key capable of unlocking said ~~that~~ digital content;

wherein said ~~that~~ license is delivered in time to at least one of: a user of said ~~that~~ digital content[:][₅] a device for presenting said ~~that~~ digital content[:][₅] or a node in said ~~that~~ network.

48. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of distributing digital content from a first node in a network to a second node in said ~~that~~ network, said ~~that~~ digital content representing at least a portion of a media stream, at least a portion of said ~~that~~ digital content being encrypted by a first encryption key, comprising:

receiving a first decryption key, said ~~that~~ first decryption key being encrypted by a second encryption key, said ~~that~~ second encryption key being pre-assigned to said ~~that~~ first node;

decrypting said first decryption key using a second decryption key associated with said ~~that~~ second encryption key, said ~~that~~ second decryption key being pre-assigned to said ~~that~~ first node;

decrypting said digital content using said ~~that~~ first decryption key;

re-encrypting at least a portion of said ~~that~~ digital content using a re-encryption key.